

Music development plan summary: King's Cross Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	December 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2025
Name of the school music lead	Stuart Laurence
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Stephen Mitchell
Name of local music hub	London - North
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At King's Cross Academy, we offer children from Nursery to Year 6 one hour of music education a week with a specialist music teacher, Mr Bailey.

In each year group, children cover the strands of the music curriculum including *performing, composing and listening*.

In the EYFS (nursery and reception) children learn nursery rhymes, number songs and well-known songs weekly, as part of the *Expressive Art and Design* area of learning. The children have access to a range of instruments and sound-makers throughout continuous provision to create their own music.

King's Cross Academy offers a newly-implemented bespoke curriculum created by the school's Music Lead and music teacher. The curriculum takes inspiration from the *Model Music Curriculum* and from the *Kapow Music* programme of study. Through the lessons taught throughout the year, pupils have the opportunity to listen and respond to music from a range of styles and cultures; from Western Classical music to Caribbean Calypso. They are taught to compose - often in collaboration with their peers - on instruments such as piano keyboards, tuned percussion and African djembe drums.

Planning, policy and progression documents are reviewed and updated regularly, to ensure the curriculum offers our pupils the best music education possible.

King's Cross Academy is a *Music Mark* school. This affiliation enables us to keep up to date with current music teaching policy and theories.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At King's Cross Academy, to enable us to be able to offer a wider variety of instrumental teaching options through the Camden Music Service. During the Spring Term we shall be providing, and subsidising, all pupils in Years 4 to 6 fortnightly lessons on the violin, cello, piano or ukulele

We have a Key Stage 2 school choir that rehearses weekly, and is free for all to join. The KCA choir continues to represent the school at a variety of events, including the Camden Schools Music Festivals, as well as at venues on the King's Cross Estate.

The choir is very proud to regularly perform with the pupils of Frank Barnes School. Children from both schools collaborate in the 'Signing Stars' choir, where pupils learn to interpret songs in British Sign Language. The 'Signing Stars' have performed at Westminster Central Hall and at venues across London.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Pupils at King's Cross Academy have been involved in projects involving visiting musicians, such as the *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* and the *Aurora Orchestra*, based in King's Place. With support from our local Music Hub, we will continue to collaborate with external organisations, to give our pupils access to a variety of musical experiences. We take part in the Camden Music Festival every two years which takes place at the Royal Albert Hall.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

During this academic year we will be continuing to improve and enhance the music provision at King's Cross Academy. To complement our new instrumental teaching programme, we will be establishing small ensembles in Key Stage 2. These will include ukulele groups, string ensembles and bands. Pupils will be encouraged to get involved with further opportunities to

perform within the Borough of Camden, by attending the many music clubs and ensembles available during the weekend and evenings.

We are also planning to develop our Digital Music curriculum throughout the year. Digital Music is a fast-growing area of music composition and performance, and has proven to be an excellent way for more pupils to become involved in music at school. This access to digital music will prepare our pupils for their continuing musical journey into secondary school, and beyond.

To complement the recent development of our music teaching classroom, plans are in place to adapt the school building further, to allow for music teaching facilities. This will include rooms for instrumental teaching, as well for spaces for pupils to collaborate in ensembles and groups.

We will plan more regular musical performance opportunities throughout the year. This will include informal performance slots, during whole-school music assemblies as well as the return of our yearly 'Music Evening', where pupils and their families are invited to sing, play and support the music culture of King's Cross Academy.

We will continue to build on our relationships with the Camden Music Hub, as well as with external musical organisations, to facilitate visits and trips throughout the year. These will include child-friendly orchestral performances, theatre trips and performances by visiting musicians.